

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, S Cursley (Chair), T Robbins, H Siggs,
I Von Mensenkampff, T Pullin (Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
WCC Cllrs: D Denis, S Powell
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
7 members of public

23/79/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Cllrs: G Folkard and P Welch

23/80/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.

23/81/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2023:
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

23/82/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Cllr Denis advised most of the £5,000 in reserve for Climate Emergency was left unspent. She made a proposal to use this allocated fund to improve some of the windows in the Town Hall, thereby improving on carbon usage. It was agreed for the Town Clerk to obtain quotes and present at the October meeting.

Cllr Siggs asked about the two disabled lifts which remain out of order. The Town Clerk explained we were still trying to obtain spare parts. If this proves unsuccessful we will need to source replacement lifts.

A short presentation was provided by all members of public attending with the seven grant applications. Grant decisions are recorded in 23/84/FCW.

23/83/FCM FINANCE

- i. The Town Clerk presented the July and August 2023 accounts and answered questions. The accounts and all expenses for July and August 2023 were approved by the committee.
- ii. New Bank Signatures
It was proposed, seconded and approved by all present for the following councillors to provide bank signatures: Cllrs Cursley, T Robbins and Welch. It was also proposed, seconded and approved to add Claire Woodland, Town Clerk Assistant, as an account administrator.

23/84/FCM GRANT APPLICATIONS

- i. City of Wells Lions Club, Tree of Light - £250 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. Wells Food Network - £250 grant was proposed, seconded and approved. The full amount applied for (£500) was not given, as the committee felt the event was not solely in Wells.
- iii. Project Factory CIC, Lantern Parade - £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.

- iv. Wells Vineyard Foodbank - £240 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
- v. International Music Exchange - £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
- vi. Somerset Bus Partnership, Wells Bus Users Group - £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
- vii. Wells City Band - £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.

23/85/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS

Cllr Siggs provided an update on the Civic Review. It has been fully reviewed with the help of Cllr Cursley, Cllr Pullin (Mayor) and Cllr Browne (Deputy Mayor). It is a lengthy document, so work is now taking place to break it down into four smaller sections. Cllr Siggs will present the revised version at the next meeting in October.

23/86/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS

The Town Clerk confirmed Cllr Welch was absent as he was attending the LCN meeting in Priddy. Some items for discussion at this meeting were the condition of pavements, level of shoplifting, local police support. Cllr Agabani asked for this to be included as an agenda item at September Full Council. This was agreed.

23/87/FCM TWINNING 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

40 guests are visiting from Bad Durkheim for the Wells Carnival weekend (Thursday 16th – Monday 20th November). This is to celebrate the 40th year anniversary of signing the twinning agreement between Wells and Bad Durkheim. Wells City Council have been asked to host a dinner in the Town Hall on the Saturday evening. Quotes have been obtained from local caterers. A discussion took place and it was proposed, seconded and agreed to reserve a budget of £2,500 for the event.

23/88/FCM WELLS RECREATION GROUND TRUST

- i. The Town Clerk advised correspondence has been received from the Charities Commission confirming the Wells Recreation Ground Trust was no longer a charity. This was as a result of having no assets of significant interest. The shadow trust has also been disbanded.
- ii. The Town Clerk explained the Barn & Recreation Ground accounts will now show as part of the council monthly account including a Capital Fund Bank Account.

23/89/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Mensenkampff advised she would be submitting a report to the Town Clerk for a request in next year's budget. This is to provide affordable counselling for youths up to the age of 25. An expert in this field was also being invited to attend and provide a presentation to Full Council.

23/90/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 12th October 2023

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private report.

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: